



[Home](#) › [Statistics](#) › [Labour](#) › [Employment and unemployment](#) › [Labour Force, Australia](#) › July 2022



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# Labour Force, Australia

Headline estimates of employment, unemployment, underemployment, participation and hours worked from the monthly Labour Force Survey

Reference period July 2022

Released 18/08/2022

## On this page

[Key statistics](#)

[Survey impacts and changes](#)

[Unemployment](#)

[Employment](#)

[Hours worked](#)

[Participation](#)

[Underemployment](#)

[States and Territories](#)

[Rotation group analysis](#)

[Data downloads](#)

[Article archive](#)

[Methodology](#)

[Articles](#)

[Media releases](#)

## Key statistics

Seasonally adjusted estimates for July 2022:

- unemployment rate decreased to 3.4%.
- participation rate decreased to 66.4%.
- employment decreased to 13,558,400.

- employment to population ratio decreased to 64.2%.
- underemployment rate decreased to 6.0%.
- monthly hours worked fell 0.8% to 1,840 million.

	Jun-2022	Jul-2022	Monthly change	Monthly change (%)	Yearly change	Yearly change (%)
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
<b>Employed people</b>	13,599,300	13,558,400	-40,900	-0.3%	398,500	3.0%
<b>Unemployed people</b>	493,900	473,600	-20,200	-4.1%	-167,600	-26.1%
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	3.5%	3.4%	-0.1 pts	na	-1.3 pts	na
<b>Underemployment rate</b>	6.1%	6.0%	-0.1 pts	na	-2.3 pts	na
<b>Participation rate</b>	66.8%	66.4%	-0.3 pts	na	0.4 pts	na
<b>Monthly hours worked in all jobs</b>	1,855 million	1,840 million	-16 million	-0.8%	61 million	3.4%

Estimates of changes throughout this release are calculated using un-rounded level estimates and may be different from, but are more accurate than, movements obtained from the rounded level estimates.

## Survey impacts and changes

### Reinstating Trend data

The ABS is planning to reinstate Trend estimates (and revert to concurrent seasonal adjustment) for Labour Force series in the September 2022 Labour Force publication, to be released on 20 October 2022. For further information, see Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates below.

### Articles and other information

The ABS has again included more detailed information given the interest in understanding:

- hours worked
- the labour market before the monthly Labour Force Survey commenced in 1978

This detailed information can be found in:

- [Insights into hours worked, July 2022 \(/articles/insights-hours-worked-july-2022\)](/articles/insights-hours-worked-july-2022)
- [Historical charts from 1966 to July 2022 \(/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-july-2022\)](/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-july-2022)

For a list of previously published LFS articles, see the [Article archive \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#article-archive\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/latest-release#article-archive).

The ABS is also continuing to include data cubes EM2a and EM2b in this release. These two data cubes are usually only released in [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release), but will continue to be released in the headline release over the coming months, to enable more detailed analysis of changes in hours worked and the reasons that people are working reduced or no hours.

Additional spreadsheets and pivot tables are published in [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release) one week after this release, while longitudinal labour force microdata are released in the ABS DataLab, on 26 August 2022 (see [Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia)).

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## Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates

In the April 2020 Labour Force release, the ABS advised that the method used to produce seasonally adjusted estimates would be changed from the 'concurrent' method to the 'forward factors' method, during the COVID-19 period. The forward factors approach is better suited to managing large movements at the end point of series and ensures that large movements do not have a disproportionate influence on the seasonal factors.

The ABS continues to monitor the economic impacts from COVID-19 with a view to reverting to the concurrent method and reinstating trend data when there are no further significant and prolonged disruptions to key series.

At this stage, it is planned to reinstate Trend data (and revert to concurrent seasonal adjustment) for Labour Force series in the September 2022 Labour Force publication, to be released on 20 October 2022.

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## Survey response and timeline

The July Labour Force Survey was run in respect of the two weeks from Sunday 3 July to Saturday 16 July, and collected over the period from Sunday 10 July to Saturday 30 July.

The ABS would like to thank Australians for their continued support in responding to our surveys during such a difficult time, given how critically important this information is.

## Reference and Enumeration Dates

Publication	Start of Reference Week	End of Reference Week	Start of Enumeration	End of Enumeration
Jun-22	29th May 2022	11th June 2022	5th June 2022	25th June 2022
Jul-22	3rd July 2022	16th July 2022	10th July 2022	30th July 2022
Aug-22	31st July 2022	13th August 2022	7th August 2022	27th August 2022
Sep-22	4th September 2022	17th September 2022	11th September 2022	1st October 2022
Oct-22	2nd October 2022	15th October 2022	9th October 2022	29th October 2022
Nov-22	30th October 2022	12th November 2022	6th November 2022	26th November 2022

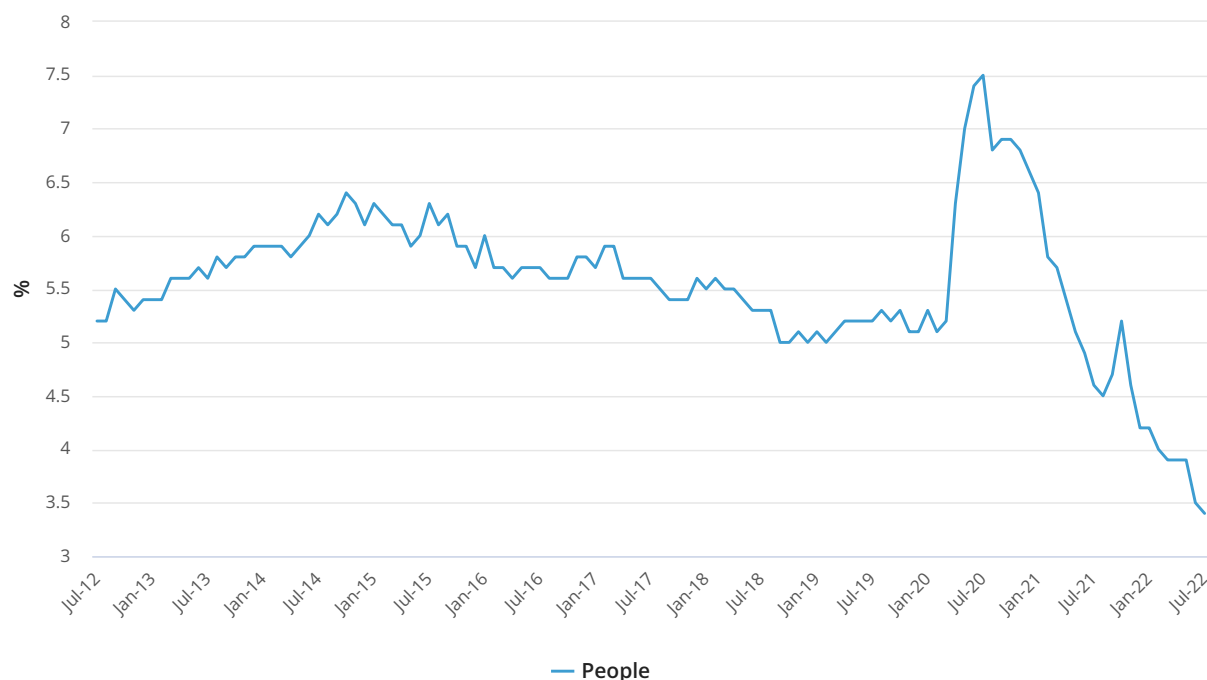
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## Unemployment

In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022:

- unemployment rate decreased to 3.4%.
- unemployment rate was 1.9 pts below March 2020.
- unemployed people decreased by 20,200 to 473,600.
- unemployed people was 245,700 lower than March 2020.
- youth unemployment rate decreased to 7.0%.
- youth unemployment rate was 4.6 pts lower than March 2020.

## Unemployment rate, Seasonally adjusted



## Employment

In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022, employment:

- decreased by 40,900 people (-0.3%) to 13,558,400 people.
- was 556,100 people (4.3%) higher than March 2020.

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## Flows into and out of employment

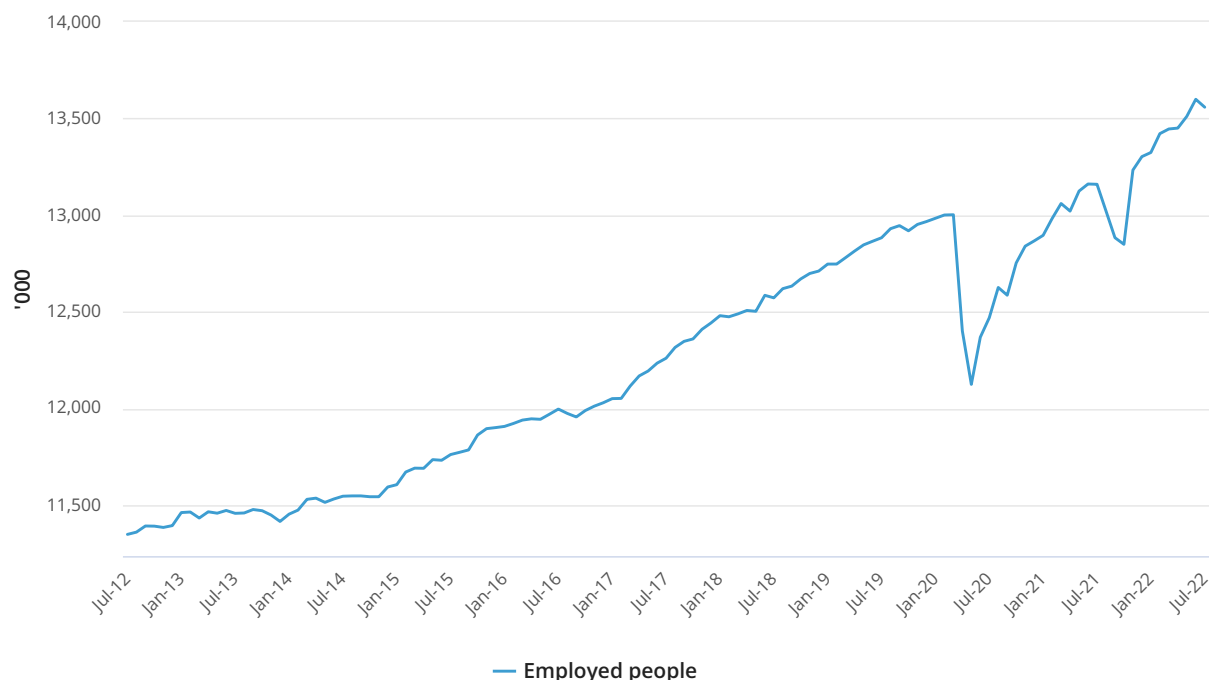
Flows into and out of employment are extensive and are based on the net matched sample of original employment growth between two consecutive months (around 80% of the sample). The (net) sum of the inflows and outflows does not necessarily equal the 'net' employment growth.

For July 2022, the net change in the number of employed people is the result of around 499,000 people entering employment (i.e. they were not employed in June but were employed in July), while around 506,000 people left employment (i.e. they were employed in June but not employed in July). This contrasts with June 2022, where around 441,000 people entered employment and around 404,000 people left employment.

## Monthly inflows, outflows and employment growth, Original



## Employed people, Seasonally adjusted



## Full-time and part-time employment

In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022:

- full-time employment decreased by 86,900 to 9,409,400 people, and part-time employment increased by 46,000 to 4,149,000 people.
- part-time share of employment was 30.6%, 1.2 pts lower than in March 2020.

## Employment-to-population ratio

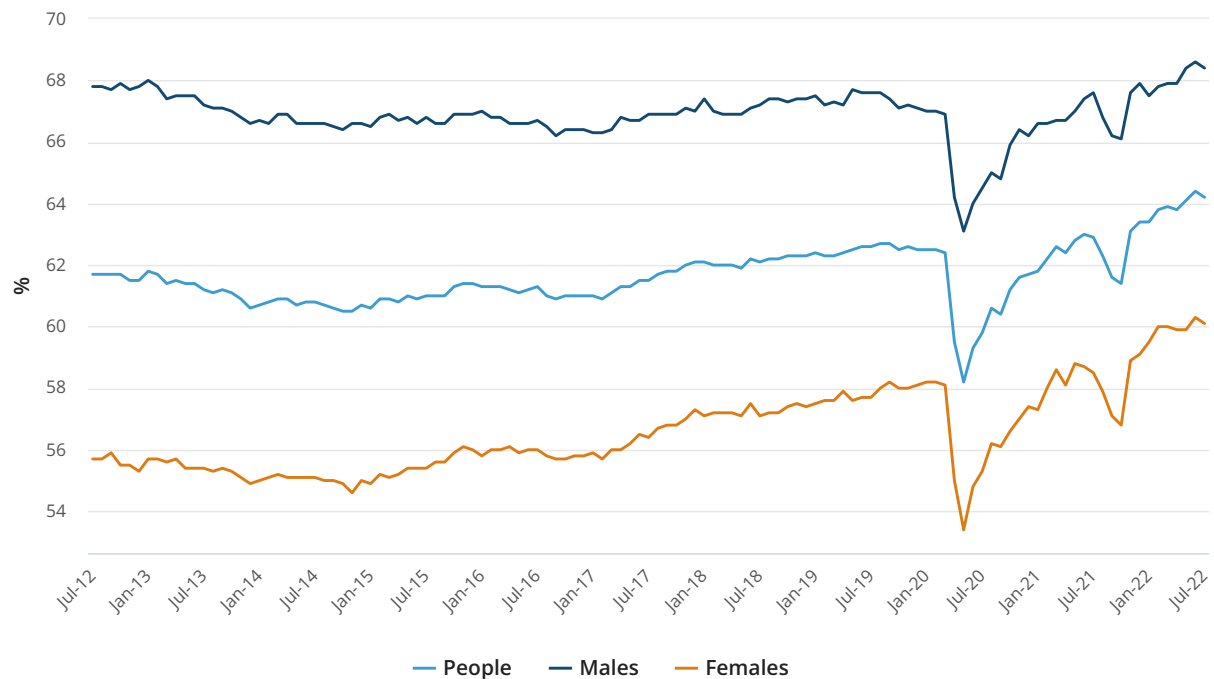
In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022, the employment-to-population ratio:

- decreased to 64.2%.
- was higher than March 2020 by 1.8 pts.

The employment-to-population ratio provides a measure of employment relative to the size

of the population.

## Employment-to-population ratio, Seasonally adjusted



## Hours worked

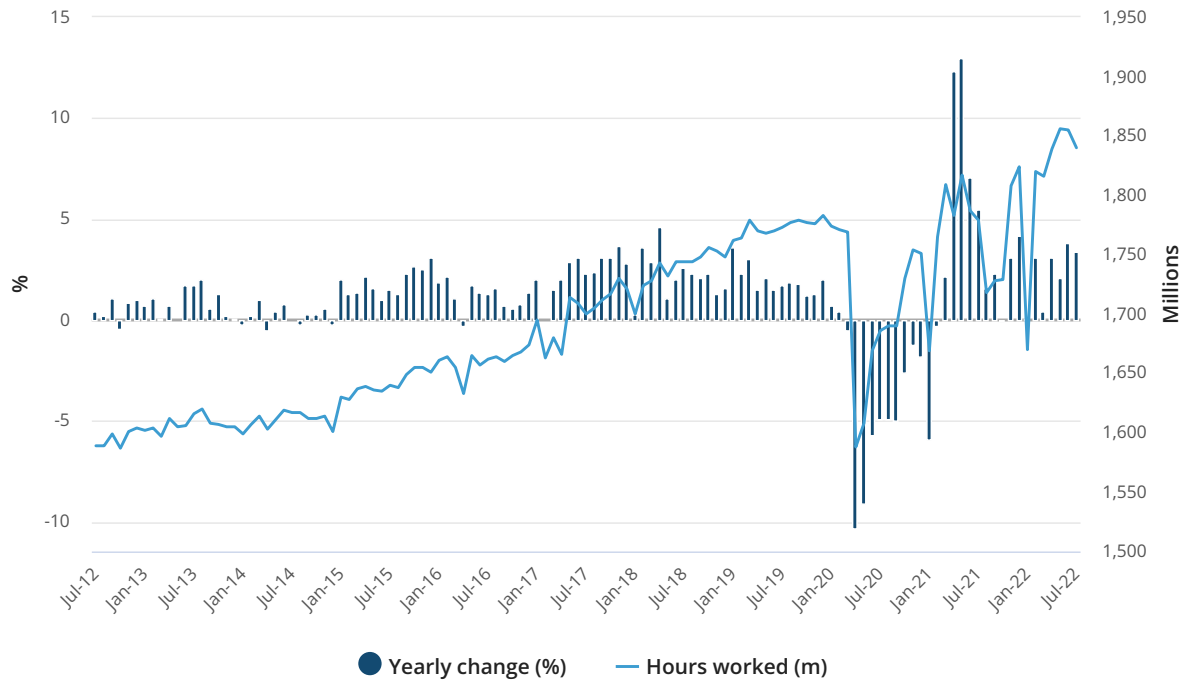
In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022, monthly hours worked in all jobs:

- decreased by 15.6 million hours (-0.8%) to 1,840 million hours.
- increased by 70.5 million hours (4.0%) from March 2020.

See the article [Insights into hours worked \(/articles/insights-hours-worked-july-2022\)](/articles/insights-hours-worked-july-2022) for more.



## Monthly hours worked in all jobs, Seasonally adjusted

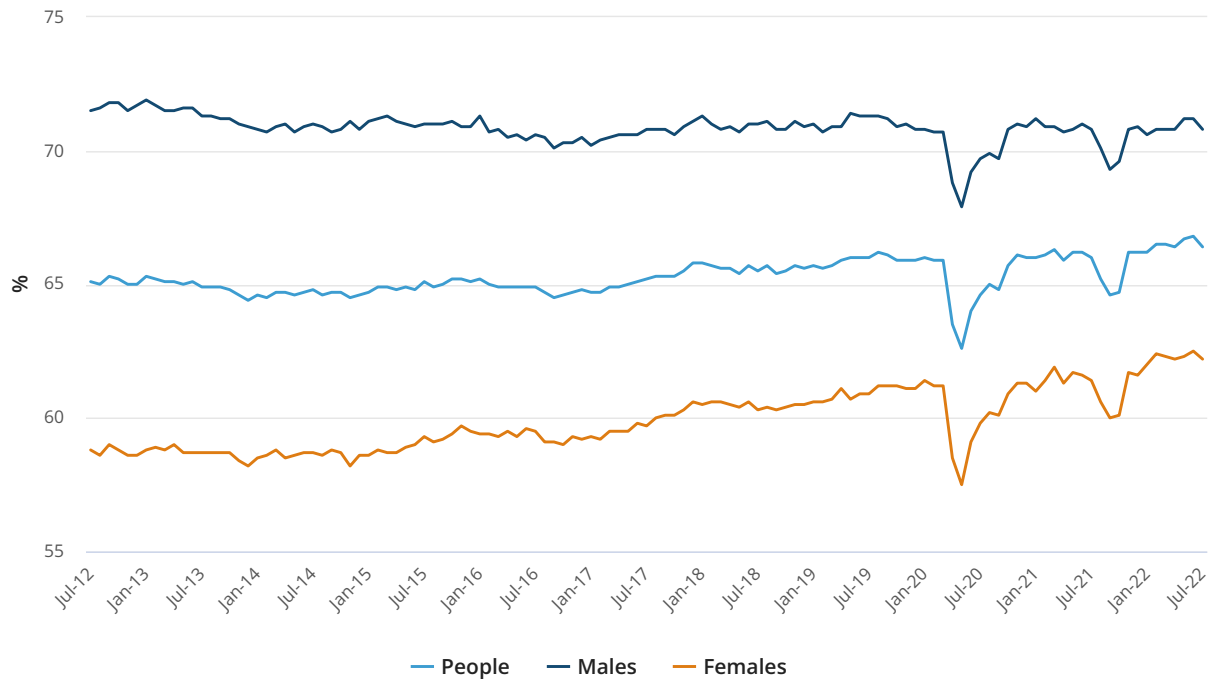


## Participation

In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022, the participation rate:

- decreased by 0.3 pts to 66.4%, 0.5 pts higher than March 2020.
- decreased by 0.4 pts to 70.8% for men and decreased by 0.3 pts to 62.2% for women.

## Participation rate, Seasonally adjusted

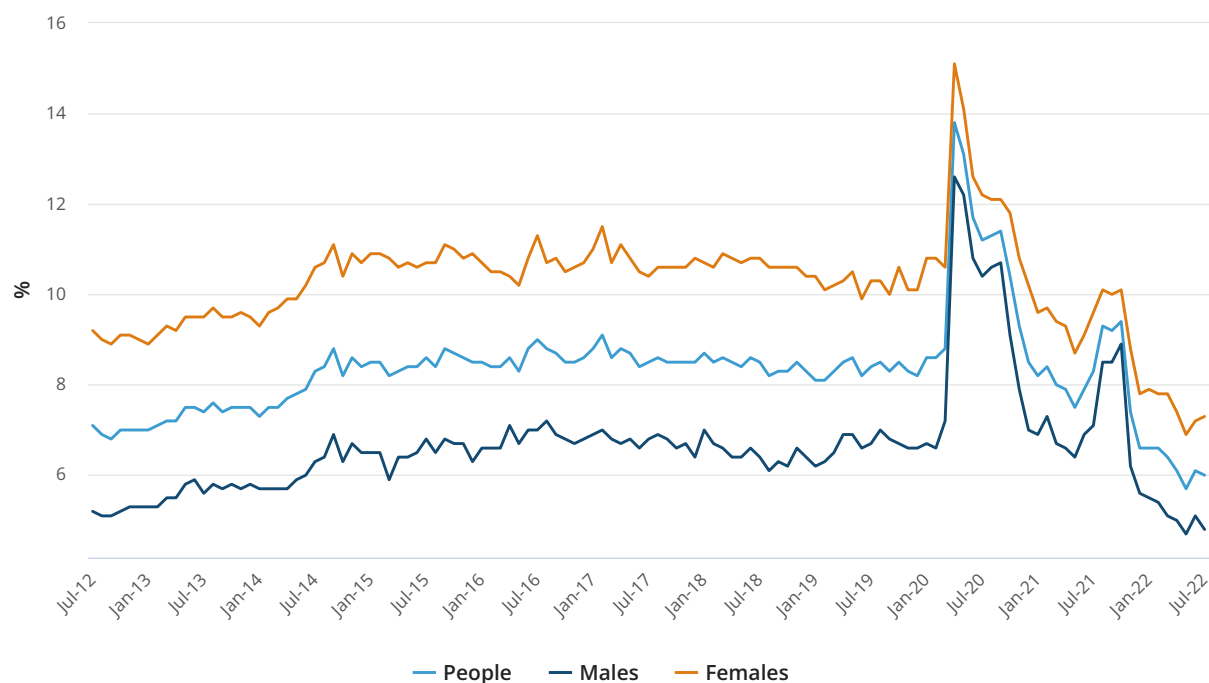


## Underemployment

In seasonally adjusted terms, in July 2022:

- underemployment rate decreased by 0.1 pts to 6.0%.
- underemployment rate was 2.8 pts lower than March 2020.
- underutilisation rate decreased by 0.2 pts to 9.4%.
- underutilisation rate was 4.7 pts lower than March 2020.

## Underemployment rate, Seasonally adjusted



## States and Territories

July 2022, Seasonally adjusted

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory
Employed people	4,274,700	3,525,900	2,774,000	883,300	1,470,600	264,200	
Employed people - monthly change	-0.3%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	
Employment to population ratio	63.7%	64.6%	64.5%	60.0%	67.2%	58.4%	
Employment to population ratio - monthly change	-0.2 pts	-0.4 pts	-0.3 pts	-0.3 pts	0.2 pts	0.0 pts	

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	North Territory
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.1%	3.8%	4.0%	3.2%	3.7%	
Unemployment rate - monthly change	0.0 pts	-0.1 pts	-0.2 pts	-0.3 pts	-0.2 pts	-0.6 pts	
Underemployment rate	5.9%	5.8%	6.6%	6.8%	5.4%	6.3%	
Underemployment rate - monthly change	0.0 pts	-0.3 pts	0.4 pts	-0.1 pts	-0.3 pts	-1.4 pts	
Participation rate	65.8%	66.6%	67.0%	62.5%	69.4%	60.6%	
Participation rate - monthly change	-0.2 pts	-0.4 pts	-0.4 pts	-0.5 pts	0.1 pts	-0.4 pts	

## Rotation group analysis

### Sample composition and rotation

The Labour Force Survey sample can be thought of as comprising eight sub-samples (rotation groups), with each sub-sample remaining in the survey for eight months, and one group "rotating out" each month and being replaced by a new group "rotating in". As seven-eighths of the sample are common from one month to the next, changes in the estimates reflect real changes in the labour market, rather than changes in the sample. The replacement sample is generally selected from the same geographic areas as the outgoing one, as part of a representative sampling approach.

The sample comprises three components:

- the matched common sample (people who responded in both the current month and previous month)
- the unmatched common sample (people who responded in the current month but who did not respond in the previous month, or vice versa)
- the incoming rotation group (replacing people who rotated out)

The matched common sample describes the change observed for the same respondents in the current and previous month, while the other two components reflect differences between the aggregate labour force status of different groups of people.

While the rotation groups are designed to be representative of the population, the outgoing

and incoming rotation groups will almost always have somewhat different characteristics, as they reflect different households and people. The design of the survey, including the weighting and estimation processes, ensures that these differences are generally relatively minor and do not affect the representativeness of the survey and its estimates. Monthly estimates are designed to be representative, regardless of the relative contribution of the three components of the sample.

The contributions of the three sample components to the original estimates of employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are in the Contribution from sample components to estimates spreadsheet.

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## Estimates for the incoming and outgoing rotation groups

### Incoming and outgoing rotation groups

	June outgoing rotation group	July incoming rotation group	July outgoing rotation group	July estimate (Original)
Employment to population ratio	65.7%	63.4%	65.6%	64.2%
Full-time employment to population ratio	45.6%	44.7%	45.8%	44.6%
Unemployment rate	2.8%	3.8%	2.9%	3.3%
Participation rate	67.5%	65.9%	67.5%	66.4%

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## States and territories

In addition to analysis across the entire sample, the ABS also undertakes similar analysis for the responding sample in each state and territory each month, and highlights where there is a notable change for users to be aware of. For example, in July 2022, the incoming rotation group in New South Wales had a lower employment-to-population ratio and a lower participation rate than the group it replaced. These ratios of the incoming rotation group in New South Wales are lower than most of other rotation groups in New South Wales. As with any notable month-to-month movement of this nature in state and territory estimates, the ABS recommends exercising a degree of caution in interpreting short-term changes.

As for its reporting for the entire sample, where the ABS has not highlighted a notable incoming rotation group effect, any larger changes should therefore be considered to reflect a broader change across the sample.

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## Managing COVID-19 impacts on incoming rotation groups

In response to COVID-19 and the suspension of face-to-face interviewing, the ABS increased the size of sample for the incoming rotation groups from June to December 2020 to ensure response level were around the same as pre-COVID-19 rotation groups. This ensured a comparable number of fully responding households to the pre-COVID period.

In response to the data collection challenges associated with the COVID-19 Delta variant, the ABS increased the size of the sample for the incoming rotation group in New South Wales in September 2021, and in New South Wales and Victoria from October 2021 to January 2022. As with earlier in the pandemic, this has ensured that survey response has remained at a similar level to the pre-COVID period.

The sample size of the incoming rotation groups since February 2022 were similar to the rotation groups of the pre-COVID period.

It should be noted that the rotation group with increased sample in December 2021 was the outgoing rotation group in July 2022. It will be replaced with a rotation group with a similar sample size to the rotation groups of the pre-COVID period in August 2022.

Between April and September 2020, and in September and October 2021, additional weighting treatments were used to effectively account for a slightly higher level of non-response related to lockdowns and other restrictions. No such treatment has been required since October 2021.

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## Comparability with seasonally adjusted data

The gross flows and rotation group data are in original terms only, and are included to provide additional information on the month-to-month movements. They have a considerable level of inherent sampling variability, which is specifically adjusted for in the seasonally adjusted series.

While trend data usually provides the best measure of the underlying behaviour of the labour market, in times of large changes in the labour market, seasonally adjusted data provides a better estimate of the most recent months. The ABS has temporarily suspended the trend series until labour market indicators become more stable, see [Suspension of trend series and changes to seasonal adjustment during the COVID-19 period \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2020#covid-19-impacts-and-changes\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/apr-2020#covid-19-impacts-and-changes).

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## Contribution from sample components to estimates

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[42.97 KB]

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## Data downloads

Labour Force Survey results are released in three stages.

1. Spreadsheets of the headline indicators are published in this release
2. Additional, more detailed spreadsheets and pivot tables are published in [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed \(/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release\)](#) one week after this first release
3. Longitudinal labour force microdata are released in the ABS DataLab on a monthly basis, one day after the detailed release (see [Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, Australia \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](#).)

See the [Survey output \(/methodologies/labour-force-australia-methodology/jul-2022#survey-output\)](#) section of Labour Force, Australia methodology for more information.

## Labour Force status

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Table 1. Labour force status by Sex, Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[986.54 KB]

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Table 4. Labour force status by Sex, New South Wales - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[688.87 KB]

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Table 5. Labour force status by Sex, Victoria - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[688.69 KB]

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Table 6. Labour force status by Sex, Queensland - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)

[691.09 KB]

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Table 7. Labour force status by Sex, South Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[687.25 KB]

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Table 8. Labour force status by Sex, Western Australia - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[689.66 KB]

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Table 9. Labour force status by Sex, Tasmania - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[693.39 KB]

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Table 10. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Trend and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[638.5 KB]

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Table 10a. Labour force status by Sex, Northern Territory - Seasonally adjusted

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[160.72 KB]

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Table 11. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Trend and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[591.65 KB]

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Table 11a. Labour force status by Sex, Australian Capital Territory - Seasonally adjusted

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[160.88 KB]

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Table 12. Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[5.92 MB]

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Table 12a. Labour force status by Sex, Territory - Seasonally adjusted

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[274.93 KB]

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Table 13. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[975.31 KB]

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Table 15. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by Educational attendance



(full-time) and Sex

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[764.34 KB]

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Table 16. Labour force status for 15-24 year olds by State, Territory and Educational attendance (full-time)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[2.34 MB]

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Table 17. Labour force status for 15-19 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[799.63 KB]

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Table 18. Labour force status for 15-64 year olds by Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[981.94 KB]

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## Hours worked

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Table 19. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and by State and Territory - Trend and Seasonally adjusted

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[371.93 KB]

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Table 19a. Monthly hours worked in all jobs by Employed full-time, part-time and Sex and Territory - Seasonally adjusted

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[60.15 KB]

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Table 21. Quarterly hours worked in all jobs by Market and Non-market sector - Seasonally adjusted

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[56.88 KB]

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EM2a - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs and sex, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[17.48 MB]

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EM2b - Employed persons who worked fewer hours than usual by hours actually worked in all jobs, state and territory, January 1991 onwards (pivot table)

↓ [Download XLSX](#)  
[8.11 MB]

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## Underemployment and underutilisation

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Table 22. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[6.65 MB]

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Table 23. Underutilised persons by State and Territory and Sex - Trend, Seasonally adjusted and Original

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[8.36 MB]

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Table 23a. Underutilised persons by Territory and Sex - Seasonally adjusted

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[396.4 KB]

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Table 24. Underutilised persons by Age and Sex (expanded analytical series)

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[427.14 KB]

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Table 25. Underutilised persons by State, Territory and Sex (expanded analytical series)

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[353.88 KB]

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## Flows into and out of employment

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GM1 - Labour force status and Gross changes (flows) by Age, Sex, State and Territory, February 1991 onwards

[↓ Download XLSX](#)  
[79.7 MB]

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## All time series spreadsheets

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All time series spreadsheets

[↓ Download ZIP](#)  
[29.21 MB]

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## Data Explorer datasets

Caution: Data in the Data Explorer is currently released after the 11:30am release on the ABS website. Please check the time period when using Data Explorer.

For information on Data Explorer and how it works, see the [Data Explorer user guide \(/about/data-services/data-explorer/data-explorer-user-guide\)](#).

[Labour force status by Sex, State and Territory \(https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df\[ds\]=ABS\\_ABS\\_TOPICS&df\[id\]=LF&df\[ag\]=ABS&df\[vs\]=1.0.0&hc\[Measure\]=Labour%20Force&hc\[ABS%20Topics\]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599.30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly\[cl\]=TIME\\_PERIOD&ly\[rw\]=TSEST\)](https://explore.data.abs.gov.au/vis?tm=labour%20force&pg=0&df[ds]=ABS_ABS_TOPICS&df[id]=LF&df[ag]=ABS&df[vs]=1.0.0&hc[Measure]=Labour%20Force&hc[ABS%20Topics]=LABOUR&pd=2021-01%2C&dq=M9.3.1599.30%2B10%2B20.AUS.M&ly[cl]=TIME_PERIOD&ly[rw]=TSEST) - Number of people employed, unemployed and not in the labour force, monthly, February 1978 and onwards

## Article archive

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### Understanding the labour force

[Historical charts from August 1966 to June 2022 \(/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-june-2022\)](#) (June 2022)

[Historical charts from August 1966 to May 2022 \(/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-may-2022\)](#) (May 2022)

[Historical charts from August 1966 to April 2022 \(/articles/historical-charts-august-1966-april-2022\)](#) (April 2022)

[Historical charts from 1966 \(/articles/historical-charts-1966\)](#) (March 2022)

[Understanding full-time and part-time work \(/articles/understanding-full-time-and-part-time-work\)](#) (January 2021)

[Understanding differences between Labour Force employment statistics and Weekly Payroll Jobs \(/articles/understanding-differences-between-labour-force-employment-statistics-and-weekly-payroll-jobs\)](#) (April 2020)

[Classifying people during the COVID-19 period \(https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/classifying-people-labour-force-survey-during-covid-19-period\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/classifying-people-labour-force-survey-during-covid-19-period) (March 2020)

[Labour Force Explained \(https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/labour+force+explained\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/labour+force+explained) (September 2017)

[Understanding the Australian labour force using ABS statistics \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features999Dec%202013\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features999Dec%202013) (December 2013)

[Understanding full-time / part-time status in the Labour Force Survey \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features4Sep%202013\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features4Sep%202013) (September 2013)

[Employment level estimates versus employment to population ratio explained \(https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features2Jan%202012\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/6202.0Main%20Features2Jan%202012) (January 2012)

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## Employment and jobs

[Charts on casual employment, occupation and industry \(/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-may-2022\)](/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-may-2022) (May 2022)

[Insights into job mobility from quarterly Labour Force Statistics \(/articles/insights-job-mobility-quarterly-labour-force-statistics-february-2022\)](/articles/insights-job-mobility-quarterly-labour-force-statistics-february-2022) (February 2022)

[Charts on casual employment, occupation and industry \(/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-february-2022\)](/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-february-2022) (February 2022)

[Insights into job mobility from quarterly Labour Force statistics \(/articles/insights-job-mobility-quarterly-labour-force-statistics\)](/articles/insights-job-mobility-quarterly-labour-force-statistics) (December 2021)

[Charts on casual employment, occupation and industry \(/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-november-2021\)](/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-november-2021) (November 2021)

[Charts on casual employment, occupation and industry \(/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-august-2021\)](/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry-august-2021) (August 2021)

[Charts on casual employment, occupation and industry \(/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry\)](/articles/charts-casual-employment-occupation-and-industry) (May 2021)

[Changing female employment over time \(/articles/changing-female-employment-over-time\)](/articles/changing-female-employment-over-time) (February 2021)

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## Methodology

[Labour Force, Australia methodology, July 2022](#)